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PROCEDURE INSTRUCTION LETTER NO. I05-V-01



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Coal Mine Safety and Health

SUBJECT: Installation of Permanent Stoppings on Working Sections

Scope

This Procedure Instruction Letter (PIL) applies to Coal Mine Safety and Health (CMS&H) District Managers, Supervisors, Specialists and Inspectors.

Purpose

This PIL provides guidance for district personnel regarding the installation of permanent stoppings on working sections providing separation of intake, return, belt and trolley haulage entries.

Procedure Instructions

The regulations are specific regarding the installation of these permanent ventilation controls and each requirement states a specific location where they shall be built and maintained. Unless the mine operator can provide a valid justification for the District Manager to approve a greater number of open crosscuts in the mine's ventilation plan, permanent stoppings installed to separate intake and return air courses must be completed in the third crosscut outby the face by the time the face crosscut is cleaned, bolted, and ready for travel. Permanent stoppings installed to separate an intake air course or the primary escapeway from the belt haulageway are to be completed as part of the belt move and prior to the resumption of mining.

Background

Section 75.333(b)(1) of Title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requires that permanent stoppings or other permanent ventilation control devices constructed after November 15, 1992, shall be built and maintained "[b]etween intake and return air

courses...[u]nless otherwise approved in the ventilation plan, these stoppings or controls shall be maintained to and including the third connecting crosscut outby the working face.” Section 75.333(b)(3) also requires that permanent stoppings or other permanent ventilation control devices constructed after November 15, 1992, shall be built and maintained “[t]o separate belt conveyor haulageways from intake air courses when the air in the intake air courses is used to provide air to active working places.”

In addition, 30 CFR 75.380(g) requires that “[e]xcept where separation of belt and trolley haulage entries from designated escapeways did not exist before November 15, 1992, the primary escapeway must be separated from belt and trolley haulage entries for its entire length, to and including the first connecting crosscut outby each loading point except when greater or lesser distance for this separation is specified and approved in the ventilation plan and does not pose a hazard to miners.”

Authority

Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

Filing Instructions

This instruction letter should be filed behind the tab marked “Procedure Instruction Letters” in the binder for Program Policy Handbooks and Procedure Instruction Letters.

Issuing Office and Contact Persons

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Internet Availability

This information bulletin may be viewed on the Internet by accessing the MSHA Home Page (www.msha.gov) and then choosing “Compliance Assistance Information” and Procedure Instruction Letters.

Distribution

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